

TRANSFORMING THE TAR HEEL STATE

THE LEGACY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN NORTH CAROLINA

Historical Facts about the Pender County Library

Compiled by Mike Taylor

Library Established

1942

Notable Librarians

Mrs. Christian Champ was the first librarian. She started her work in 1943.

First Bookmobile

The first bookmobile was established in 1948. It was a truck with compartment doors on the sides of the bed exposing shelves.

Important Facts

In the summer of 1936, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) established three reading rooms in Pender County with books borrowed from the North Carolina Library Commission. There was no library in the county and Mrs. Frances Sawyer, WPA library supervisor, asked the County Commissioners for space in the Grand Jury room to start a library (to be used when court was not in session). This library began with 250 books donated by citizens. The WPA continued this reading room until early 1943. The county and Town of Burgaw allocated funds, a trained librarian was hired, and the county received its first state aid to public library grant.

Two well-developed libraries in the system serve the 5th largest county in the area. Pender is also in the top five fastest growing counties in North Carolina.